

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on Psychosocial Care and Services for Patients With Cancer and Their Families

People with cancer may experience a variety of psychosocial problems through every stage of their care from diagnosis to treatment to survivorship. Anxiety, denial, suffering, loss, grief, and other problems affect patients' coping, adaptation, and recovery. Oncology nurses have long been advocates and front-line providers of psychosocial services to people with cancer.

It is the Oncology Nursing Society's position that every patient with cancer has access to psychosocial health services and that psychosocial assessment is a standard component of cancer care.

This includes

- Adequate health plans that support and pay for evidenced-based psychosocial services
- Federal and other funding for research focused on developing measures for psychosocial care
- Standards set by organizations to ensure that psychosocial services are being delivered to people with cancer, particularly in outpatient settings, in which most cancer care is delivered.

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